

South Bethany Breeze Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2022

OUR COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Many members of the community, friends and family, came out to honor Councilwoman Sue Callaway on August 22, 2022



A Final Farewell to Councilwoman Sue Callaway

Former Councilwoman/Mayor Pro Tem, Sue Callaway (pictured left), had several visions and ideas that she initiated throughout the Town while also serving as chair of the Community Enhancement Committee. On August 22, Sue was honored by Council, Committee members, friends, family and property owners, for her never-ending commitment to our community. Sue and her husband are looking forward to their exciting next journey. Good luck, Sue! Thanks for all you've done for South Bethany!

AND THE WINNER IS....

Congratulations to Stephanie Bunoski, the winner of the "Name the Newsletter" contest held by the Community Relations Committee. Stephanie's suggestion of "South Bethany Breeze" will replace the newly-retired newsletter name, "Zephyr".

It was a tough decision for the Committee to go through the 30+ creative suggestions. Thank you to all who participated!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Welcome & Farewell	2
Ordinances & Resolutions	2
Beach Patrol	2
Just the Facts	3
B&PS Committee	4
Are You Prepared for Snow?	4
Rights-of-Way	5
Code Corner	5
Town Hall Info Page	6

Town of South Bethany • 402 Evergreen Road • South Bethany, DE 19930
Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:00 pm, closed weekends & holidays
Visit the Town Website: <https://southbethany.delaware.gov/>
Get Connected! Visit our website to sign up for email notifications
Find us on Instagram @southbethanytownhall

~WELCOME & FAREWELL~

Meet Greg DeMarco, new to our Public Works department - Greg has a long history of working in this field for many years in Ocean City, Maryland. If you see Greg out and about Town, please say hello!



Welcome Officer Matt Wilson to the Police Department on June 1. Officer Wilson has been a Delaware certified police officer for 19 years and brings a depth of experience to the Department. Officer Wilson is pictured here

with Chief Jason Lovins.

Thank you and Farewell to Officer Jahn Farrell. Officer Farrell started as a seasonal officer with the Town after retiring from an impressive career in New York. Officer Farrell has been a huge supporter of community policing, but has decided that family and life are first and foremost. We thank Officer Farrell for his commitment to our Community. He will be sorely missed.



Happy Retirement, Janet! After over five years of service with the Town, our former Town Clerk and Administrative Specialist, Janet Powell, retired. Janet has always provided positive energy to Town Hall and shared an integral part in updating our election charter. We thank Janet for her years of service and we know that she will miss us, no matter what she says! Best wishes, Janet! Of course, Janet couldn't leave without commenting! "Yes! I will miss my job, the staff, Council, and the friendly homeowners! Thank you all for everything, I have really enjoyed being a part of the South Bethany community."



Congrats to Town Clerk, Matt Amerling who has accepted Janet Powell's position. Matt has been with South Bethany since March 2021.

Hello, Brittany Sneeringer! Brittany will be the new face of Town Hall starting October 3. Stop by and welcome our new Administrative Assistant to South Bethany!

Condolences to the family and friends of Dee Burbage, a loyal & loved 33-year employee of Town Hall. Godspeed, Dee.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS

- Ordinance 206-22** Establishing a stipend for the Mayor and Town Council
- Ordinance 207-22** Amend Chapter 56 Commercial Establishments 56-3 Definitions
- Ordinance 208-22** Chapter 145-58 BOA, Powers and duties updating the language pertaining to notification of mail
- Ordinance 209-22** Chapters 34,37,50,69,73,84,94,104,130,141 and 145
- Resolution 3-22** Adopting an Operating and Capital budget and Reserve Allocations for the Fiscal Year 2023
- Resolution 4-22** Recognizing former councilmember Sue Callaway for her twelve years of service



South Bethany Beach Patrol

Congratulations to Ryan Riggione!



South Bethany's 2022 Lifeguard of the Year

Another successful summer season with the South Bethany Beach Patrol's Junior Lifeguard Program. We especially thank the Guards who enjoy teaching and leading this young group of future South Bethany Beach Patrol members!

A huge shout out to four of our guards who participated in the USLA National Lifeguard Championships August 11-13, in Hermosa Beach, CA. The guards who participated this year included Mike O'Reilly, Sean McClory, Maggie Ford, and Derek Budd. Sussex County, Delaware had a heavy presence at the Nationals and we congratulate all of these hard-working individuals for their sportsmanship, leadership, and successful participation.



Special thanks to our Beach Patrol Captain, Ryan Dacey, who, along with his guards, brought us through a safe and successful summer. It was a rough start for them after the Nor'easter hit the coastal towns on Mother's Day weekend, wiping out all of our beach walkways and most of the beach in South Bethany. Good job, Ryan!

Just the Facts

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

The Community Relations Committee has been hosting this successful event since March, providing conversation and coffee with the Mayor, several Councilmembers, Police Chief Jason Lovins and Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company Chief Shane Truitt.



The coffee events are a time for the public to stop in, listen, or share comments in an informal setting with neighbors. Stay tuned to see who will be next by subscribing to the South Bethany News Updates. As a reminder, "Coffees" will be on hiatus during Town Hall renovations!

KEEP UP WITH UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS....SUBSCRIBE!

Go to southbethany.delaware.gov at the top of the home page to subscribe. Click on "more info" on the banner.

News Updates provides email blasts regarding emergency weather notifications, Town election, events and activities, trash schedule and other various town-related information.

Meetings Only provides only the meetings you choose. You will receive an email on each day the agenda is published with a title, summary and link access.

PLEASE EXCUSE OUR MESS!

Town Hall renovations are now underway for the next 4-6 months. We will remain opened during regular business hours, but business may be conducted via a walk-up window. Access could be limited for a brief time, but we are here to assist you in any way possible! Questions? Feel free to call us!

U.S. WIND PRESENTATION

At the July 27 Town Council Workshop, U.S. Wind representative Mike Dunmyer provided a presentation regarding the offshore wind project lease area located 12-27 statute miles from Ocean City, MD, and noted that the U.S. Wind Construction and Operations Plan (COP) is located on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) website and that many ques-

tions about the turbines can be answered at www.boem.gov. Additionally, a You Tube Timelapse Simulation of Wind Turbines can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zq5LabMbE-c&t=119s>. Construction is projected to start in 2024 providing energy to more than 340,000 homes.

CABLE OPTION BECOMING A REALITY

Comcast is completing their installation efforts and rolling services are now being offered as infrastructure is completed. Comcast representatives will be reaching out to property owners via post cards, in-person, and by phone, to discuss service options in our community. Keep an eye out for subscription information and packages from Comcast.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER IF YOU RENT

If you have rented your property, you will need to pay rental tax. The rental tax is 8% of your gross rental income and is due by October 31, 2022. The Town has already mailed out rental tax forms to all the properties who paid their Application for Rental License Declaration.

SOUTH BETHANY POLICE SENDING TWO NEW CANDIDATES TO THE POLICE ACADEMY

Chief Jason Lovins has recruited two new candidates to send to the Dover Municipal Police Academy. The Academy starts in October with graduation in March 2023. Best of luck to both, Mr. Gabriel Burnshaw and Mr. Matthew Boyd.

PREPARE FOR WINTER AND AVOID BROKEN PIPES

Our yearly reminder to property owners.....the Public Works Department is not permitted to enter on, or in, properties to turn off or repair broken water pipes. Property owners, or concerned neighbors who notice a broken pipe, must call Artesian. Please be prepared to provide the street address of the property to Artesian's customer service.

Artesian - (Water and broken pipes) - 302-453-6930

DID YOU KNOW?

In vehicle-pedestrian crashes at 30 mph, 20% are fatal to pedestrians aged 18-69 years and 37% are fatal for pedestrians over the age of 70. At 20 mph, the risk of fatality is greatly reduced to 7 percent. Slowing down can truly save a life!

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee



In July, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety Committee (B&PSC) held a Bike Rodeo outside Town Hall. Inspired by similar events in neighboring communities, the event was designed to be a fun way of promoting bike safety. Flashing red taillights were installed on the bikes of all attendees. Kids were invited to learn their hand signals and show their riding skills on a course laid out by Chief Lovins and Officer Farrell of the South Bethany Police Department. The Bethany Beach Volunteer Fire Company brought a ladder truck that was a huge hit with attendees who were given the opportunity to sit behind the wheel of the truck and walked away with their own fireman's helmet. Educational materials on riding and walking safety were distributed, snacks were consumed, and much fun was had by all. The Committee is especially grateful to the local businesses that donated items for door prize giveaways, including the Bethany Bike Shop, Roberts Property Management, and Al Hartman of Long and Foster Bethany.



The B&PSC was formed in June 2021 as an ad-hoc committee charged with promoting safe walking and riding to residents and visitors, and collaborating with the Town Council, South Bethany Police Department, and Public Works staff on safety-enhancing improvements to Town roads. Recognizing the important purpose of the Committee and in acknowledgment of its successful efforts to date, Town Council recently voted to extend the tenure of the Committee through September 2023. The Committee hopes to hold another safety-related event next summer and to continue to work towards its mission of making South Bethany's streets safe for all users.



Chair, Edie Dondero

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR SNOW?

The Farmer's Almanac has been 'shoveling out' some daunting news for winter! As a reminder, when and if snow rolls into Delaware and plowing Town-owned roads becomes necessary, the Town cannot assist with shoveling private walkways or plowing private driveways. Please make arrangements with a snow removal contractor. Look in the local newspapers or online for advertisers prior to snow season.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why did the plow push snow in my driveway after shoveling?

This is not done intentionally. Snow pushed into driveways is an unfortunate result of plowing a street. We know that it is frustrating to have to shovel out the end of your driveway a second time, but it is unavoidable. To avoid extra shovel work, try to shovel after the snow plow has driven by, and shovel the snow to the right side of your driveway as you face the road. See diagram (How to Prevent the "Second Shovel").

Why was snow pushed into my driveway and not those across the street?

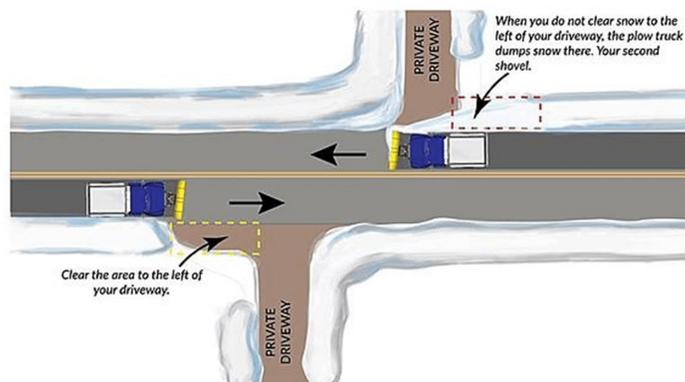
It is common that most residential streets that are plowed receive one center pass. Each pass pushes the snow to the driver's right. That is why one side gets the snow that's been

pushed and the other doesn't. Which side gets the snow that's been pushed is mostly determined by where the driver started.

Where do I put my refuse carts when snow is piled at the edge of the street?

Carts should be placed in your driveway opening or an area cleared of snow between the walkway and street.

How to Prevent the "Second Shovel"!



Will the Town let us know of impending snowstorms?

Yes! If a major snowstorm/Nor'easter is approaching, the Town will notify residents via an email news update (if you've provided us with your email address), Instagram, or the Police Department's Facebook page.

The Scoop From Town Hall

What to Know About Rights-of-Way

All Town streets are located on land that is referred to as the street right-of-way (ROW). The width of the ROW can vary a great deal, dependent on the width of each specific street. There are also instances where the centerline does not match the center of the street ROW.

Within a typical ROW, some of the following public, and allowable, facilities can be found: driving surface, shoulder, drainage systems, aerial and underground public utilities, sidewalks or non-motorized paths, traffic signs and signals. Mailboxes in the ROW are allowed, provided they do not encroach over the street pavement.

All non-approved objects placed within the ROW are considered encroachments. In many instances, property owners or contractors place fencing, rocks/boulders,

vegetation, irrigation, lighting, trash bins, driveway chains and other numerous objects within the ROW as a measure of improving landscape. However, these fixed objects often become hazards to errant motorists, vision obstructions, or interfere with street and public utility improvements and are subject to removal.

In accordance with Town Code §125-2A, "No person shall obstruct any of the streets, street rights-of-way, beach access rights-of-way, or waterways of the Town by placing thereon any barrier or impediment to the free flow of pedestrian, vehicular or boat traffic. Such barriers or impediments shall include but shall not be limited to, boats, building materials, machinery, trash containers, landscaping timbers and pilings, or vegetation."

One important item to note is §125-2A8, "Items placed in the rights-of-way per Subsection A(4) through (7) shall not block stormwater drainage or the installation of drainage systems.

Occasionally public works or Town staff must remove items from adopted canal ends that impede drainage and cause ponding on the streets, particularly after heavy rain events. Property owners are encouraged to remove landscape rocks, potted plants or vegetation from storm drains prior to storm events as well.

If a Town official deems it necessary to contact a property owner about an encroachment in the ROW, or if something is determined to be an obstruction or impediment, it is up to the property owner (violation) to remove the obstruction within 30 days of notification.

CODE CORNER

With many new construction projects in town, and many new residents coming to the area, we wanted to remind everyone what is required as you contemplate a new project at your home in South Bethany. All major projects, whether it is a new home build, a renovation, or deck replacement, requires a building permit from Sussex County as well as South Bethany. Smaller projects, such as putting up a fence, replacing your HVAC, or replacing your roof with new shingles, requires a South Bethany Building Permit. Please be aware that, in South Bethany, we are in a unique ecosystem, that comes with special rules and regulations for building. If you have questions or concerns about your project, please make an appointment to visit the Code Constable, Joe Hinks, before beginning any work. Please make sure any contractor hired also has their South Bethany Mercantile License, as this will prevent further complications with your project.

Trash receptacles - as a reminder, trash cans and recycle carts not stored in a curbside bin, must be placed roadside for trash pickup, and returned back to its storage area after pickup that same day.

Any questions about Building Permits and Mercantile Licenses can be directed to the Code Enforcement Department at 302.539.3653, ext. 102.

A very wise owl (or two) will tell you to take care of your property!

Each winter, we receive several calls regarding broken water pipes, downed tree limbs, opened or unsecured doors, and loose debris scattered throughout the neighborhood after a storm.



Your home is your investment! If you own a second home, travel frequently, or become a snowbird in the winter, consider a property management company to take care of your investment.

Remember, town staff is not permitted to access private properties under any circumstance.

Do you rent your property?

Does your rental management company not only rent your property, but do they also take care of the exterior work and landscaping?

Many property owners may think their rental company is handling these chores, and they are not! Consider looking for a property management company, local handyman and/or landscaper. It is your responsibility to keep your property exterior and landscaping compliant with Town Code.



TOWN HALL INFORMATION PAGE

Town Hall is opened 7:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday
Closed holidays & weekends

STAY INFORMED! GET CONNECTED

The Town of South Bethany offers TWO options to subscribe for email notifications

Visit our Town website at southbethany.delaware.gov. At the top of the home page, click on the banner "more info".

News Updates provides only Town Council agendas and news releases regarding emergency weather, Town election, events and activities, trash schedule and other various town related information.

Meetings Only provides just that - Town Council and Committee meeting notifications. You will receive an email on each day that the notices are published. Each email will include a title, summary and link access.

TOWN HALL 302-539-3653

<u>STAFF</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Town Manager	Maureen Hartman
Finance Director	Renee McDorman
Code Enforcement Officer	Joe Hinks
Town Clerk	Matt Amerling
Admin Assistant	Brittany Sneeringer
Public Works Supervisor	Jon Stiffler
Public Works	Greg DeMarco
Deputy Code Enforcement & Beach Patrol Captain	Ryan Dacey

POLICE DEPARTMENT 302-539-3996 (non-emergency)

Chief of Police	Jason Lovins
Police Sergeant	Patrick Wiley
Police Officer	Shaun Baldasano
Police Officer	Jahn Farrell
Police Officer	Terik Fullerton
Police Officer	Matt Wilson
PD Admin Assistant	Coleen Meyer

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor	Timothy Saxton
Councilmember	Derek Abbott
Councilmember	Randall Bartholomew
Councilmember	Bob Biciocchi
Councilmember	Edie Dondero
Councilmember	Dick Oliver
Councilmember and Mayor Pro Tem	William (Tim) Shaw

New to the Neighborhood? Stop by Town Hall to pick up a "Welcome Bag". The bag has an array of Town swag, as well as information about the Town and surrounding areas.

Questions? Call Town Hall at (302) 539-3653, extension 101.

The South Bethany Property Owner's Association (SBPOA) is not affiliated with the Town. All questions/comments for SBPOA should be directed to the President, Carolyn Bell.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting dates/times are subject to change; meetings can be attended in person or accessed via the virtual link provided on all agendas.

Town Council meetings are normally held the 2nd Fri at 9:00 am and Town Workshops, if necessary, are normally held the 4th Wed at 5:00 pm.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>MEETING</u>
Sept 9	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Sept 28	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop
Oct 14	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Oct 26	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop
Nov 10 (Thurs)	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
November		NO Town Council Workshop
Dec 9	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Dec 14	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop
January 2023		NO MEETINGS
Feb 10	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Feb 22	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop
Mar 10	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Mar 22	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop
Apr 14	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
Apr 26	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop
May 12	9:00 AM	Town Council Regular Meeting
May 24	5:00 PM	Town Council Workshop

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

State Police Non-Emergency	302-855-2980
DNREC (Boating complaints outside of Town limits)	800-523-3336
U.S. Coast Guard	800-424-8802
Republic Services (Trash, Recycling, Yard Waste)	800-762-8888
DE Solid Waste Authority (Landfill)	800-404-7080
Artesian (Water and broken pipes)	302-453-6930 *
Sharp Energy (Emergency)	302-856-6648
(Complaint)	302-539-7898

***Reminder: Property owners or concerned neighbors must call Artesian, not Town Hall, regarding broken water pipes.**